

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/671,711

Examiner

Kamini S Shah

Applicant(s)

BESSERER ET AL.

Art Unit

2863

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview with applicant on 9/21/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 9/21/04.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/29/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Neils on 09/21/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace abstract with attached sheet.

In claims:

Claim 6. Apparatus for locating, in a reference plane, an edge disposed at the junction between two surfaces by means of the method according to of claim 1, said apparatus comprising at least one transmitter and at least two receivers disposed in the reference plane, said transmitter having a transmit solid angle making it possible for at least some waves transmitted by said transmitter to reach both of two surfaces on either side of said edge, said receivers being disposed in the reference plane such that one of the receivers essentially receives the waves reflected by one of the surfaces while the other receiver essentially receives the signals reflected by the other surface, the positions of said transmitter and of said receivers in the reference plane being known by construction.

Claim 11. ~~A method of guiding a moving element relative to an edge disposed at the junction between two substantially plane surfaces, said method including a location stage during which the edge is located by means of the method according to claim 1. A~~

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location method according to claim 1 further comprising a step of guiding a moving element relative to an edge disposed at junction between two substantially plane surfaces, wherein said step of guiding includes a location stage during which the edge is located.

Claim 12. A guiding location method according to claim 11, wherein said location stage is performed iteratively while the moving element is being guided relative to the edge.

Claim 13. A guiding location method according to claim 12, wherein said moving element is a step on a rail vehicle and the edge is the edge coping of a platform, said step supporting a single transmitter and two receivers disposed in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the rail vehicle, the receivers being disposed on either side of

Claim 14. A guiding location method according to claim 13, wherein, when the location method does not make it possible to locate the platform edge coping, the travel times of the waves transmitted by the transmitter and received by the receivers after being reflected off the platform are compared to determine whether the step is situated above or below the platform edge coping.

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figures 1 and 2 are label as –Prior Art–. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art does not teach a method of locating an edge that is disposed at the junction between two surfaces said method comprising stages (c) - (e) for analyzing the energy of the signal received by each receiver to determine the value of the angle of inclination; computing the position in reference plane of point of impact of waves on each surface; and locating said edge in the reference plane by computing the point corresponding to the intersection of the straight lines passing through the two points of impact, as claimed. Furthermore, the cited prior art does not teach a step of guiding element relative to an edge disposed at the junction as disclosed in claim 11.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamini S Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-2279. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kamini S Shah
Primary Examiner
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KSS